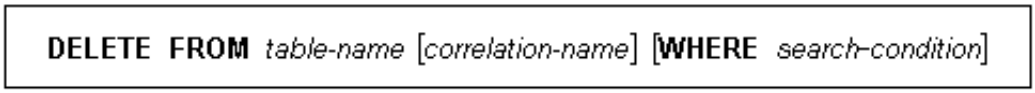
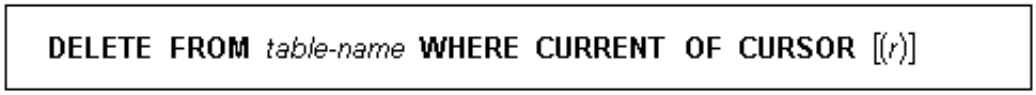
DELETE

Syntax 1 - Searched DELETE



Syntax 2 - Positioned DELETE



Function

The SQL DELETE statement is used to delete either rows in a table without using a cursor ("searched" DELETE) or rows in a table to which a cursor is positioned ("positioned" DELETE).

The "searched" DELETE statement is a stand-alone statement not related to any SELECT statement. With a single statement you can delete zero, one, multiple or all rows of a table. The rows to be deleted are determined by a *search-condition* that is applied to the table. Optionally, the table name can be assigned a *correlation-name*.

The "positioned" DELETE statement always refers to a cursor within a database loop. Thus, the table referenced by a positioned DELETE statement must be the same as the one referenced by the corresponding SELECT statement; otherwise an error message is returned. A positioned DELETE cannot be used with a non-cursor selection. The functionality of the positioned DELETE statement corresponds to that of the "normal" Natural DELETE statement.

Note:
The number of rows that have actually been deleted with a "searched" DELETE can be ascertained by using the system variable *ROWCOUNT (see Natural Reference documentation).

FROM Clause

The FROM clause specifies the table from which the rows are to be deleted.

WHERE Clause

The WHERE clause is used to specify the selection criteria for the rows to be deleted.

If no WHERE clause is specified, the entire table is deleted.

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Statement Reference - r

The "(*r*)" notation is used to reference the statement which was used to select the row to be deleted. If no statement reference is specified, the DELETE statement is related to the innermost active processing loop in which a database record was selected.

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